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TELEGRAM

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ACTION: Amembassy PHNOM PENH (sent by other means as
Dept's 013)

LIMDIS
REF: Phnom Penh 032 — Pal 17 Camb-45
XR Pal 1 Camb-45
SUBJ: U.S.-Cambodian Relations
Pal 2-45

1. Appreciate your thoughtfully expressed views. Dept concurs that in many respects we can make fresh start in favorable atmosphere created by resumption of relations, your arrival, Mansfield visit, and RKG attempts to limit VC/NVA use of Cambodia. At same time, believe we must recognize that this sunny weather is going to be punctuated by squalls from time to time, which it will be impossible avert even by most soothing treatment we can give Sihanouk. He is maneuvering with some skill among conflicting pressures, and we believe it in his as well as our interest allow him set the pace in improving Cambodia/U.S. relations. Dept fully shares your objective of avoiding needless conflict and provocation in bilateral relations as means of effecting gradual progress

REVIEWED BY Amblong DATE 10/9/80

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. REASON(S)

DRAFTED BY:

EA/LC: PJBennett:cew

DRAFTING DATE

8/28/69

CLEARANCES:

EA - Mr. Cross (draft)

EA/LC - Mr. Corcoran

TELETYPE APPROVED MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED BY EA - Mr. Green 116 (2)

PA on POT EXEMPTIONS

L/C Mr. Henderson (draft)

EA/ Mr. Jans (draft)

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on matters relating to events in neighboring areas.

2. We are working on instructions re defoliation claims and will be pouching you shortly ~~xx~~ copies of report for presentation to RKG. However, offer of immediate partial payment seems unfeasible. Aside from other factors, bulk of valid claims, perhaps 80-90 percent, appear to be those of French plantations, not Cambodian. Problem of immediate needs of smallholders and unemployed tappers is apparently being met by advances from RKG, which it can ultimately assert as claim against USG.

3. You are authorized make suggested approach^{any} re which, as you will recall, are unrelated to ~~xx~~ claims. solatium payments,/ In deciding timing, however, you may wish bear in mind that two other cases (woodcutter injured in December 17 incident, and Skatum incident of ~~May~~ March 11)

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are awaiting decision on availability of funds for solatium payments, and we hope have instructions for you on these additional cases in near future.

4. We anticipate no major problems in prompt response to any Cambodian suggestion to exchange ambassadors. Asst. Secy Green and Director General Burns are acting on your 28.

5. Delivery of remaining maps still under discussion with DOD. Have you been approached by Cambodians on this matter, or do you expect approach in near future? At what level is RKG aware of our delays in delivery?

6. We are drafting circular press guidance re comments on Cambodia. Fully share your hope that misleading and inflammatory remarks can be avoided, but as you know this is problem not wholly amenable our control.

END.

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